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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/051,927	01/22/2002	Kenneth H. Bottom	JM001	1349

7590
Jack C. McGowan
246 High Street
Hamilton, OH 45011

07/12/2004

EXAMINER

ZEC, FILIP

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3744

DATE MAILED: 07/12/2004

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/051,927

Applicant(s)

BOTTOM, KENNETH H.

Examiner

Filip Zec

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3 and 5-8 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,228,313 to Okamoto et al. Looking at FIG. 4 of Okamoto, one notices all elements claimed by the applicant, namely a fruit ripening storage system for boxes, comprising a double wall (2, 20) for insulation and enabling the cold fluid flow from top to bottom of the space, an refrigeration unit (14) having fans and a motor, a top cover portion (2), an access opening for stacked boxes (8), vertical partitions (51, FIG. 8) providing the fluid flow channels (11) and a plastic shield (3) to prevent the fluid from flowing out of the system.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,228,313 to Okamoto et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,312,034 to Nakagawa et al.

Okamoto discloses applicant's basic inventive concept, a fruit ripening storage system for boxes,

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comprising a double wall (2, 20) for insulation and enabling the cold fluid flow from top to bottom of the space, an refrigeration unit (14) having fans and a motor, a top cover portion (2), an access opening for stacked boxes (8), vertical partitions (51, FIG. 8) providing the fluid flow channels (11) and a plastic shield (3) to prevent the fluid from flowing out of the system, substantially as claimed with the exception of having staggered rows of holes for the fluid flow inside of the boxes. Nakagawa shows this feature to be old in the refrigeration art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made from the teaching of Nakagawa to modify the system of Okamoto, by adding staggered rows of holes in order to alleviate the flow of the cooling fluid throughout the storage space.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent 5,671,609 to Lionetti, Nicola.

U.S. Patent 6,615,908 to Bosher, Paul Raymond et al.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Filip Zec whose telephone number is (703) 306-3446. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, with the exception of every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Denise Esquivel can be reached on (703) 308-2597. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Filip Zec
Examiner
Art Unit 3744

FZ


WILLIAM DOERRLER
PATENT EXAMINER
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